US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

FOREST WIDE WELL DECOMMISSIONING
MYSTIC RIVER AND CUSTER RANGER DISTRICTS, BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST
SOUTH DAKOTA
STATEMENT OF WORK
AUGUST 6, 2026

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Project
Forest Wide Well Decommissioning

General Information
1.0 Scope of Work

Black Hills National Forest is requesting a quote to close and seal water wells per South Dakota (SD) Administrative Rule (ARSD) 74:02:04:67 "Requirements for plugging wells or test holes completed into confined aquifers or encountering more than one aquifer" and ARSD 74:02:04:39 "Requirements for plugging wells or test holes completed into unconfined aquifers with only one aquifer encountered" , and SD Codified Law (SDCL) 46-6-18 and 46-6-27.

Well locations and descriptions are provided on the project plans, along with specific well closure requirements, location map and directions, and photos.

2.0 Background

Unused wells are required to be plugged and notice of the plugging recorded with the SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SD DANR), Office of Water Rights. A copy of the well plugging report shall be submitted by Contractor to SD DANR and a copy delivered to the project Contracting Officer and Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

This work shall be conducted by a SD licensed well driller in accordance with SD Codified Law (SDCL) 46-6-6 to 46-6-31 and ARSD 74:02:01

There are 16 water wells and one (1) cistern to be sealed.

11 Wells and 1 Cistern are located on the Mystic Ranger District and are all in Pennington County, SD.
5 Wells are located on the Custer Ranger District and are all in Custer County, SD.

Contractor Requirements
3.0 Technical Requirements / Tasks

All work activities at all locations shall be performed between one half-hour after sunrise and one half-hour before sunset.

All hand dug wells shall be plugged during the period October 1 – April 30. As necessary, Government shall grant Contractor administrative access to work on specific wells that are located behind seasonal closure gates. 13 of the well locations access requires crossing wetlands and/or live or ephemeral streams. Crossing such features shall be performed when the ground is dry or frozen to be able to access worksite with heavy equipment. The work shall be coordinated with the Contractor and the COR for the time of year agreeable to both parties.

Well locations and descriptions are provided on the project plans, along with specific well closure requirements, location map and directions, and photos.

SEALING

Sealing of wells shall comply with ARSD 74:02:04:67 "Requirements for plugging wells or test holes completed into confined aquifers or encountering more than one aquifer" and ARSD 74:02:04:39

“Requirements for plugging wells or test holes completed into unconfined aquifers with only one aquifer encountered” , and SD Codified Law (SDCL) 46-6-18 and 46-6-27.

Contractor shall measure diameter each casing and report it on the Well Closure Report. Contractor shall determine the depth of the well and report it on the Well Closure Report.

Prepare Well Plugging Report and submit to SD DANR within 30 days of well plugging and submit copies to CO and COR.

WORK TIMING RESTRICTIONS

All hand dug wells shall be plugged during the period October 1 – April 30.

All work activities at all locations shall be performed between one half-hour after sunrise and one half-hour before sunset.

WASTE MATERIALS

All existing aboveground well improvements (pipes, handles, concrete slab, barriers) shall be removed prior to the well being filled and plugged.

Barriers such as bat gates and cattleguards functioning as bat gates shall be delivered to Contractor to the Black Hills National Forest Hill City Shop located at 24030 Highway 384, Hill City, SD 57745.

All other removed improvements (pipes, handles, concrete, etc.) shall be removed from the site by Contractor and legally recycled or disposed of off-site at permitted solid waste landfill.

ACCESS

Contractor shall not cross any live or ephemeral streams or wetlands unless ground and drainage is dry or frozen.

At all times, keep heavy equipment out of streams and wetlands to the extent practicable*.
Machinery is to be dried for 72 hours or washed with 140^{o} F water before and after working in or crossing streams to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
Minimize time spent in the wetlands, streams, and areas of saturated soil.
Contractors shall ensure all equipment is clean prior to accessing each site to prevent introduction of invasive species onto each site.

The following well sites must be completed when the ground is frozen to ensure access to the site and not to damage the environment.

1. Harry Mills
4. Bald Horse Well
5. Rifle Pit Range
7. Spokane Townsite #1
8. Spokane Townsite #2
9. South Rockerville
10. Cosmos
11. Mystic Road Trail #6611
12. Pony Gulch
14. East Slate Road
15. Friday Gulch

16. Pactola Marine Store
17. Slate Prairie

Well sites 2, 3 and 13 **do not** have the frozen ground restrictions.

SEDIMENT MITIGATION

Keep sediment out of streams and wetlands. Use erosion control measures as needed. Conduct work under dry or frozen conditions as much as possible or use "swamp mats" to support equipment. Use wattles or similar devices to prevent sediment from leaving each site and remove erosion control devices at completion of work and reclaim to existing condition.

BAREGROUND MITIGATON

Ground around the wells may not be level. Contractors will need to determine if a pad needs to be constructed to perform work. If pad is needed, the contractor will be required to remove the pad and restore the site after completion of the work.

If any bare ground is exposed during project implementation, these areas shall be seeded at 20 pounds live seed/acre with the following seed mix. Prior to seeding, the ground shall be scarified.

30%	Annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*)
25%	Slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*)
20%	Green needlegrass (*Nassella viridula*)
10%	Canada wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*)
10%	Canby bluegrass (*Poa canbyi*)
5%	Purple prairie clover (Dalea purpurea) or American vetch (*Vicia Americana*)

WASTE MATERIALS

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All other removed improvements (pipes, handles, concrete, etc.) shall be removed from the site by Contractor and legally recycled or disposed of off-site at permitted solid waste landfill.

FIRE PROTECTION

Contractors shall always have fire prevention and firefighting equipment available, including fire extinguishers and shovels.

Remove and keep area free of combustibles, including rubbish, paper, waste, and chemicals unless necessary for the immediate work.

Internal combustion equipment and machinery must be equipped with approved spark arrestors and properly installed and maintained in effective working order.

Before working with heat-generating equipment, combustible materials, or open flames, station personnel to serve as a fire-watch where such work is performed. Have fire-watch personnel perform final fire-safety inspection each day beginning no sooner than 30 minutes after the conclusion of work in each area to detect hidden or smoldering fire and to ensure that proper fire prevention is maintained.

Comply with restrictions of red flag warnings when issued. No open burning or flames.
Do not perform operations that might generate sparks, such as welding and cutting. Avoid pulling off onto dry grass and monitor areas around vehicles for potential ignition sources.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

If any artifacts, features, suspected human remains, etc. are discovered or disturbed during the work, Contractor shall immediately stop all project activities within 100 ft (30 m) of the discovery and immediately notify the CO and the COR. The Black Hills National Forest District Archeologist and District Ranger responsible for the area of the discovery shall be notified. A Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer shall be notified in the case of suspected human remains.

4.0 Government Furnished

The government will provide access to the well site, historical well logs (if available), and any required operational data. No government-furnished equipment is anticipated. Government personnel will review and approve all provided reports and submittals.

5.0 Deliverables / Schedule

All written deliverables shall be phrased in layperson language.

Key Deliverables

Item No.	Deliverable	Objective	Due
1	Well Plugging Report	Notice of the plugging recorded with the SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SD DANR), Office of Water Rights. A copy of the well plugging report shall be submitted by Contractor to SD DANR and a copy delivered to the project Contracting Officer and Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).	submit to SD DANR within 30 days of well plugging and submitting copies to CO and COR.
2	Barriers such as bat gates and cattleguards functioning as bat gates	Delivered to the Black Hills National Forest Hill City Shop located at 24030 Highway 384, Hill City, SD 57745.	Upon completion of well closure

6.0 Travel

The contractor is responsible for all travel to and from the sites. All travel costs shall be included in the contractor's quote. No separate reimbursement will be provided.

7.0 Contractor's Key Personnel

This work shall be conducted by a SD licensed well driller in accordance with SD Codified Law (SDCL) 46-6-6 to 46-6-31 and ARSD 74:02:01

8.0 Security Requirements

No security clearance is required. Contractor personnel shall check in with site representatives upon arrival and comply with all USDA site access requirements.

9.0 Data Rights

All data, reports, test results, and documentation generated under this contract become the property of the U.S. Government.

10.0 Section 508 – Electronic and Information Technology Standards

All electronic deliverables shall be Section 508 compliant, including readable PDFs and accessible text formats.